

**Green Fund Project  
Rainbow's End  
Final Report**

Project Title: Rainbow's End Green Project

Project ID #: 16SP123

Award Date: 04/22/2016

Completion Award: \$32,500

Total Funds Used: \$32,500

1. Our project/project experience:

Rainbow's End expanded our playground area for infants/toddlers. It will provide an area for green grass, which was non-existent on these play areas before now. It has been noted on visits by our state assessors that we need at least two types of surfaces on each playground for children to experience. We now have the grassy areas for children to explore as well as the soft rubber surfaces. The playground extends south of the current play areas and is fenced in for safety. An access gate allows classrooms to take groups of children onto the playground easily from their current playground. We also constructed a concrete path around the perimeter of the grass, but inside the fence, for the children to ride the tricycles and other riding toys on.

Planters were also constructed for our north playground for the preschool and school-age children to be able to engage in planting experiences. These were constructed from reclaimed cedar boards provided by the SIU physical plant.

2. Summary of results:

As a result of the project, we now have a grassy area for the children to play on, touch and sit on. This part of the project has reached about 60 children at the center, 14 full-time staff members, and several part-time employees and student workers. The infant, red, yellow, green, and blue classrooms are all able to utilize the playground during their outdoor times in the morning and the afternoon. The infants and young toddlers can crawl and walk around comfortably on the surface or can sit on a blanket on the surface to read books, sing songs, and talk about the nature around them. It will raise our score on the ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale) from a 5 to an 8 in the area of *Space for gross motor play*. 8 is the

highest score to be attained in that area. For the ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale), having the new planters help us meet the indicator of 5.4, which is *Nature/science materials are accessible for a substantial portion of the day.*

3. Summary of how our project promoted the Green/Fee Sustainability on campus:

We sent announcements to staff and parents to let them know about receiving the grant and how we planned to use it. We took pictures of the process of the project and of the children enjoying the new play area. We will hang a sign of the fence of our new playground area, which lets others know that it was funded by the Green Fee. We are also making posters to hang throughout our building, including pictures of the process and the children using the playground.

4. Is there anything we would do differently if we were to do a similar project in the future?

We would allow for more funds for actual materials to be used by the children, such as natural play equipment, natural music gardens, natural building blocks, etc.

5.



















